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Message Text

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14
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01

DPW-01 /147 W
---------- 006577
R 041015Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0854
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PK, BG, IN
SUBJECT: INDO-PAK AGREEMENT: REPATRIATION ASSISTANCE

REF: A) DACCA 3925; B) DACCA 3960

SUMMARY: APART FROM OURSELVES, THE BDG HAS CONTACTED
A NUMBER OF OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WITH REQUESTS
FOR HELP IN REPATRIATING BENGALEES FROM PAKISTAN.
PROCEDURES FOR SEEKING AND COORDINATING ASSISTANCE
NEED TO BE SORTED OUT. OUR ROLE SHOULD BE LIMITED.
WE BELIEVE THE UNHCR IS BEST EQUIPPED TO DO THE JOB
AND RECOMMEND AN APPROACH TO THE UNITED NATIONS.
IN DUE COURSE MUJIB'S REQUEST FOR AMERICAN HELP MUST
BE ANSWERED. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ADDITION TO THE APPROACH TO US ON AUG 30, WE
UNDERSTAND BDG HAS CONTACTED A NUMBER OF OTHER
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DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WITH SIMILAR OR EVEN LARGER

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REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN REPATRIATING BENGALEES
FROM PAKISTAN. MUJIB CALLED IN UNSYS'S RESIDENT
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FRANCIS LACOSTE AUG 29
TO ASK FOR UN ASSISTANCE NOT ONLY IN MOVING THE
REPATRIATES BUT IN PROVIDING THEM RELIEF, LODGING,
TRAINING AND EVENTUALLY EMPLOYMENT ONCE THEY
REACH BANGLADESH. HE EXPRESSED A HOPE TO LOCASTE
THE UN WOULD COORDINATE THE REPATRIATION, IMPLING HE
WISHED UNROB WOULD PROLONG ITS EXISTENCE TO TAKE ON
THE TASK. LACOSTE LET MUJIB KNOW THAT HE DID NOT
BELIEVE THIS WAS UNROB'S ROLE BUT AGREED TO TRANSMIT
MUJIB'S REQUEST TO THE SYG.

2. OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE UNCERTAIN
ABOUT WHAT THE BDG EXPECTS OF THEM. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE
FOR THE CURRENT AIRLIFT, COAT, SAYS HIS ORGANIZATION
WAS LOGICAL CANDIDATE FOR ASSUMING ROLE OF BROKER BUT
TO HIS KNOWLEDGE UNHCR HAS NOT RECEIVED A REQUEST FOR
HELP. IF IT SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED UNHCR WOULD WANT
NO PART IN PREPARING LISTS OF BIHARIS FOR
REPATRIATION TO PAKISTAN WHICH UNHCR BELIEVES
IS AN ICRC FUNCTION. THE ICRC HAS RECEIVED NO BDG
REQUEST FOR HELP BUT ACCORDING TO BOTH ITS LOCAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND A RECENT GENEVA VISITOR, THE ICRC
HAS NEITHER THE MEANS NOR THE WILL TO ASSUME A VERY
LARGE ROLE IN REPATRIATION.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THE BRITISH, FRENCH AN FEDERAL
GERMANS HAVE ALSO RECEIVED ORAL OR WRITTEN REQUESTS
FOR TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE. THERE ARE NO DOUBT OTHERS.
THE YUGOSLAVS TELL US THEIR AMBASSADOR HAS MET
WITH SEVERAL BDG MINISTERS IN THE PAST FEW DAYS AND HAS
LEARNED THE BDG WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SOME UNSPECIFIED
FORM OF YUGOSLAV ASSISTANCE. MUJIB MAY PURSUE THE
SUBJECT WITH TITO IN ALGIERS. THE SWISS POSITION
IN ALSO UNCLEAR. THEIR CHARGE TELLS US HIS GOVERNMENT
WAS NOT CONSULTED ON THE ROLE SPELLED OUT FOR IT IN
THE INDO-PAK AGREEMENT AND WHILE IT MIGHT BE PREPARED
TO SUPPLY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THE SWISS DO NOT WANT
TO BE THE INTERHEDIARY. WE HAVE NO WORD ON WHAT IF
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ANYTHING THE BDG HAS REQUESTED FROM THE SOVIET UNION
AND THE OTHER EASTERN EUROPEANS.

4. IF DONOR INTENTIONS ARE NOT YET CLEAR, THE BENGALEE
POSITION IS ALSO IN DISARRAY. AS WE POINTED OUT IN
REFTEL B, THE BDG FACES ENORMOUS PROBLEMS IN
RECEIVING, EMPLOYING AND SETTLING LARGE NUMBERS OF
REPATRIATES. NO EXISTING MINISTRY HAS SUFFICIENT

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AUTHORITY, STENGTH OR PRESTIGE TO MOBILIZE THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT LARGE SCALE REPATRIATION. NO PLAN FOR REPATRIATION SEEMS TO EXIST. MOREOVER BY PURSUING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT ON A HAPHAZARD BASIS, THE BDG MAY BE COMPLICATING THE PROBLEM OF DONOR COORDINATION.

5. SORTING OUT THE ISSUE OF DONOR INTEREST AND COORDINATION DEMANDS HIGHEST PRIORITY. LACOSTE SUGGESTS THE INTERESTED PARTIES IN DACCA SHOULD MEET, PERHAPS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION. WE DOUBT THE BRITISH WANT THE JOB OR WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR IT. FURTHERMORE, SINCE THE ISSUE OF REPATRIATION WILL INVOLVE PAKISTAN AND EVEN INDIA WE DOUBT DACCA IS THE MOST USEFUL PLACE TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS AT THIS TIME. UNHCR, WITH ITS 1971-72 EXPERIENCE IN CALCUTTA AND ITS PRESENT ROLE IN MOVING BENGALIS, PAKISTANIS AND BIHARIS, SEEMS TO US THE MOST LOGICAL CANDIDATE TO SEEK ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATE DONOR ACTIVITIES. WE RECOMMEND THE USG APPROACH THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK AND PERHAPS UNHCR IN GENEVA WITH THIS PROPOSAL. WE SHOULD LOOK TO THE UNITED NATIONS OR ITS DESIGNATED AGENCY TO ADVISE THE BDG HOW BEST TO ORGAINZE ITSELF TO RECEIVE AND CARE FOR THE REPATRIATES.

6. OUR DIRECT ROLE IN REPATRIATION SHOULD BE STRICTLY LIMITED TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. ANY USG TRANSPORT SHOULD BE SUPPLIED TO THE CHOSEN INTERNATIONAL ORGAINZATION, NOT DIRECTLY TO THE BDG. WE SHOULD ALSO AVOID BILATERAL INVOLVEMENT IN RECEPTION, RESETTLEMENT, AND EMPLOYEMENT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

REPATRIATES. WE HAVE NEITHER THE STAFF TO SUPPORT SUCH AN UNDERTAKING AND WITH ALL THE DANGERS OF CONFUSION, MISUNDERSTANDING, AND LONG TERM COMMITMENT, OUGHT TO AVOID DIRECT INVOLVEMENT.

7. MUJIB'S REQUEST TO PRESIDENT NIXON FOR HELP (REF A) NEEDS TO BE ANSWERED IN DUE COURSE. (PRIME MINISTER HEATH HAS RESPONDED SEPT 2 TO MUJIB, ASSURING, ACCORDING TO THE DACCA PRESS, ALL POSSIBLE HELP AND COOPERATION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FOR THE REPATRIATION OF BENGALEES IN PAKISTAN.)

8. FOR THE PRESENT WE PREFER A GENERAL AND INFORMAL INSTRUCTION PERMITTING US TO TELL THE BDG THE UNITED

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STATES IS PREPARED TO JOIN OTHER NATIONS IN ASSISTING
WITH THE IMPORTANT TASK OF REPATRIATION. A FORMAL
ANSWER COULD BE SENT ONCE THE MACHINERY THROUGH WHICH
FUNDS OR SUPPORT WILL BE CHANNELED HAS BEEN
DISCUSSED. OUR ANSWER SHOULD SPECIFY OUR COMMITMENT
TO WORKING THROUGH THE DESIGNATED MECHANISM.
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